

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



Children's Residential Care Update

MARCH 2008

This is our first quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for the new year. We wish all of the children in our children's residential homes and their caregivers a healthy and safe 2008. We are in the sixteenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this Update with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are also available online at the new Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.

CCLD BIDS FAREWELL TO BARBARA ROONEY

Barbara Rooney reported for duty to the California Department of Social Services for the last time on Friday, February 15, 2008. For the past three years, Barbara served as Chief of CCLD's Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB). During her tenure, Barbara proved to be a dedicated and hard-working professional. Barbara returns to the Department of Motor Vehicles, her first state employer and the "launching pad" of her career in public service. We thank Barbara for her hard work on behalf of CCLD and we wish her the very best in her new career! While Barbara's successor is recruited, Bill Jordan, Program Consultant with CCLD, has graciously agreed to fill in as Acting Chief. Our thanks to Bill!

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a Special Immunization Schedule (SIS) for 2008 in response to a nationwide shortage of the Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) vaccine. Effective immediately, children ages 15 months to 4 ½ years may receive one dose of the Hib vaccine at any age.

Caregivers are permitted by statute to give consent for ordinary medical treatment, including immunizations (Health and Safety Code section 1530.6). Community Care Licensing (CCL) will not cite caregivers who give consent for the Hib vaccine under the temporary requirements.

Caregivers are still required to comply with all other immunization requirements for licensed children's residential facilities. The two exceptions to this are caregivers or parents may refuse to give consent for immunizations due to personal beliefs or medical exemption with the approval of a physician. A copy of the CDPH SIS can be obtained from the CCLD website at <http://cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/SpecialImmunization.pdf>.

CRISIS NURSERY REGULATIONS APPROVED

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved permanent Crisis Nursery (CN) regulations, which became effective December 31, 2007. A copy of the provider letter announcing the regulations can be obtained from the CCLD website at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/CNplregs.pdf>. The regulations can be obtained from the CCLD website at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG295.htm>. It is the responsibility of all CN licensees to read and become familiar with the new CN regulations.

UPDATE ON NEW SSI/SSP AND NON-MEDICAL RATES FOR 2008

It was announced in our December 2007 *Update* that new Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) rates became effective January 1, 2008. A State of California increase in the combined SSI/SSP rate, which would result in a total 3.70% cost of living increase in the 2007 SSI/SSP rate, has been suspended through May. This increase was projected to become effective June 1, 2008, but it has now been recommended to the Legislature that it become effective October 1, 2008. Please be aware that this continues to be subject to change and we will continue to keep you updated. If you have questions regarding these new rates, please contact Ernie Ruoff of the Adult Programs Operations Bureau at (916) 229-4008.

CHAPTERED LEGISLATION FOR 2007 NOW AVAILABLE ON CCLD WEBSITE

A summary and implementation plan for each chaptered bill that affects children's residential facilities is now available on the CCLD website. Unless otherwise noted in the summary and implementation plan, these bills became effective on January 1, 2008. Licensees are encouraged to review these plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of these bills. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing regional office. The implementation plans for children's residential facilities are online at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/07apx12.pdf>.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Foster Family Home (FFH): Department staff are working to incorporate final revisions into the proposed Foster Family Home (FFH) revision regulations. These regulations will reflect legislative updates, input from the Children's Residential Regulations Review Workgroup (CRRRW), and needed changes identified by the Department. It is expected that formal rulemaking on these regulations will begin shortly.

These regulations will implement several pieces of legislation that include: AB 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003) entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of

2005) authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement. SB 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) established the Prudent Parent Standard and exempts short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health screening, and CPR training. SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005) defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and requires a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

Family Connections: Department staff have initiated formal rulemaking on proposed "Family Connections for Foster Youth" regulations. The proposed regulations and Public Hearing information can be obtained from the Office of Regulation Development (ORD) website at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG1240.htm>. A Public Hearing on these regulations is scheduled for March 12, 2008.

These regulations will implement AB 458 (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003), AB 1412 (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005), and AB 2661 (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2004). These regulations support family connections for foster youth, outline new foster care training requirements, and require foster family agencies to conduct reference checks for new certified family home applicants.

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY WEB APPLICATION

CCLD is pleased to announce the rollout of the new and improved Foster Family Agency Web Application (FFAWA). Currently, it is in the test pilot stage and we anticipate it going statewide by May 2008. The new application will allow the Foster Family Agency (FFA) to certify, decertify, recertify and edit Certified Family Home (CFH) information; associate and disassociate cleared adults from the certified home; transfer a CFH within the FFA, and view select reports, such as a list of certified or decertified family homes. The Children's Residential Program Regional Offices will be contacting FFAs in the near future to schedule training dates for the FFAWA prior to going statewide.

UPCOMING FOSTER FAMILY HOME COUNTY ACADEMIES

All new Foster Family Home (FFH) county licensing staff, including licensing analysts, supervisors, and program managers, are required to attend County Academy Training. This training relates to documenting and understanding the licensing process from application to administrative legal action. County licensing staff have the option to attend this training in southern or northern California.

Southern California

San Diego County Academy – April 21-25, 2008

Monday, April 21, **12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 22-24, **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Friday, April 25, **8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Location: San Diego County Health & Human Services
8965 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, California

Northern California

San Jose County Academy – July 28- August 1, 2008

Monday, July 28, **12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 29-31, **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Friday, August 1, **8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Location: Santa Clara County Human Resources
333 W. Julian Street, San Jose, California

To register, please contact Leslie Mendoza, County Liaison and Coordinator for the County Academies, at (323) 980-4926 or Leslie.Mendoza@dss.ca.gov.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

Sergio Ramirez was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Program Administrator for the statewide Children's Residential Program. He joined CCLD in 1981 as a Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) and has held management positions in the Division since 1984.

Florence Manos was recently appointed to the position of Regional Manager for the Pacific Inland Children's Residential Office. She has been a Licensing Program Manager (LPM) in the office since September 2000, with 6 prior years as an LPA.

Linda Calhoun was recently appointed to the position of LPM in the Pacific Inland Children's Residential Office. Linda came to CCLD as an LPA in February 1994.

Kimberly Taylor was also recently appointed to the position of LPM with the Pacific Inland Children's Residential Office. She has been with CCLD as an LPA since February 1999.

Welcome to the newest members of the Children's Residential management team!

SPRING WEATHER HEALTH TIPS

With spring may come the bloom of allergies that go dormant during the colder winter months when there is not as much pollen in the air. According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), allergies occur when a person's immune system overreacts to

substances that generally do not affect other people. These substances, or allergens, can cause sneezing, coughing, and itching. Allergic reactions range from merely bothersome to life-threatening. Some allergies are seasonal, like hay fever. Allergies have also been associated with chronic conditions like sinusitis and asthma.

If a child has a known allergy, they may avoid contact with the allergen by remaining in an air-conditioned environment during peak hay fever season and avoiding certain foods. Caregivers can eliminate dust mites and animal dander from a child's environment. Other strategies for allergies include taking over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medication to counteract reactions or minimize symptoms and being immunized with allergy injection therapy. Any medication or immunization should only be taken if appropriate and with the approval of a physician. For more information, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local Children's Residential Program licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Bill Jordan, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch, at (916) 657-2346. Please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain copies of *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Jeff Hiratsuka for
JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures